

REMARKS

On page 11 of the office Action, the Examiner noted that there was allowable subject matter and that claims 2, 24, 27, 34-35, 43, 55, 60, 70 and 80 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended the allowable above claims such that they are in independent form. The other claim amendments merely change the claim dependencies so as not to depend from a canceled claim. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 13, 25, 30, 31, 41, 53, 58, 68, 78, and 88 without prejudice or disclaimer.

On page 5, paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 13-17, 22-23, 25-26, 28-33, 36-38, 41-42, 44-48, 53-54, 56-59, 61-63, 68-69, 71-73, 78-79, 81-84, 91-93 and 96-100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,477,513 ("Walker").

On page 9, paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 10-11, 20-21, 51-52, 66-67, 76-77, 87 and 89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Schneier (Applied Cryptography).

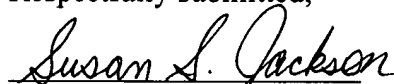
On page 9, paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 8-9, 12, 18-19, 39-40, 49-50, 64-65, 74-75, 85-86 and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Stallings (Cryptography and Network Security).

On page 10, paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 94 and 95 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of McKenney et al., U.S. Patent Pub. 2006/0004670 ("McKenney").

Applicant submits that the above rejections are moot in view of the presently amended claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration is requested. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan S. Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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